

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
AT GREENEVILLE

JOHNSON CITY ENERGY AUTHORITY \*  
d/b/a BRIGHTRIDGE, \*  
Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant, \*

VS. \*

UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST, LLC, \*  
d/b/a CENTURYLINK, \*  
Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff. \*

CASE NO.  
2:20-cv-00030

DEPOSITION OF

**GARY JEFFERSON "JEFF" HONEYCUTT**

(Taken December 8, 2022)

**APPEARANCES:**

COUNSEL FOR BRIGHTRIDGE:

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COUNSEL FOR CENTURYLINK:

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ALSO APPEARING:

JEFF DYKES  
Chief Executive Officer  
BrightRidge

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EXHIBIT

7

1       he's -- see, CenturyLink is nationwide, so people are over  
2       different areas like Mid-Atlantic, and Southern, and all  
3       of that. So it's probably they're over other divisions, I  
4       mean. They probably have the same job. I don't know  
5       that, but they probably have the same job as Andrew in  
6       other locations, so he's seeing if they've had the same  
7       issue.

8       Q. And why would seeing if they had the same issue be  
9       important?

10      A. Well, just to see how it was handled in their areas.

11      Q. Would that help in this situation?

12      A. I don't know because there's different states, different  
13       rules, so I don't know if the rules -- for instance,  
14       Pennsylvania, which we have companies, I don't know if the  
15       rules in Pennsylvania are the same as they are in  
16       Tennessee.

17      Q. But Mr. Chong wanted to know what they had done in this  
18       situation before.

19      A. Plus, Sikes had been responsible for this area before.  
20       Maybe he thought that Sikes had experience in Tennessee,  
21       so he might know something.

22      Q. If Mr. Sikes had experience in Tennessee, would that be  
23       useful to know?

24      MR. EDWARDS: Objection, opinion, speculation.

25      A. Well, yeah, it might be. I don't know.

GARY JEFFERSON "JEFF" HONEYCUTT

DIRECT - HARVEY

- 1 Q. Well, Mr. Chong was interested to know if this situation  
2 had happened before, right?  
3 A. Yes, sir.  
4 Q. And he thought that might provide a solution, right?  
5 A. Well, he says that, yes.  
6 Q. To your knowledge, was Mr. Chong familiar with BVU?  
7 A. I don't know. I wouldn't know what he's familiar with.  
8 Q. To your knowledge, did anyone mention BVU in response to  
9 his question?  
10 A. Not that I know of.  
11 Q. Turn to the second page of Exhibit 26, which is Bates  
12 numbered CL0488. This is -- the E-mail at the bottom  
13 third of the page -- these are in reverse chronological  
14 order.  
15 A. I know. It's confusing.  
16 Q. Yeah. So the earliest E-mail on this Page 2, CL0488, is  
17 from Andy Ice dated August 30th, 2018, correct?  
18 A. Yes, sir.  
19 Q. And this E-mail was sent the day after the meeting at  
20 BrightRidge on August 29th, 2018, correct?  
21 A. Yes, sir.  
22 Q. And in the E-mail, Mr. Ice says, "I had a question about  
23 the meeting we had with BrightRidge yesterday. When Jeff  
24 Honeycutt asked the question about attachment fees and if  
25 they would be paying for an attachment, the reply that

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DIRECT - HARVEY

- 1 A. Okay. I was looking at the top. Okay. Yeah, I see it.
- 2 Q. So we're looking at the E-mail that starts about...
- 3 A. Yeah, I know which one. I'm on the right page.
- 4 Q. Okay. The last full paragraph that begins with they
- 5 started -- they stated they expected, do you see that?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Okay. Go to the third line from the bottom of that
- 8 paragraph that says what we have done, do you see that?
- 9 A. "What have we done," yeah.
- 10 Q. Yes. Yes, I'm sorry, you're exactly right. That sentence
- 11 says, "What have we done in other areas where power
- 12 companies began attaching down in the communications
- 13 zone?" Do you see that?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Why did Mr. Ice ask for that information?
- 16 A. I guess just to have additional support for what we
- 17 thought or what we believed.
- 18 Q. And what -- what CenturyLink had done in other areas where
- 19 power companies began attaching down in the communications
- 20 zone, that would be relevant to what CenturyLink was going
- 21 to do in this situation, correct?
- 22 A. To a point it could be, but like I said, different states
- 23 have different rules. I don't know what the rules would
- 24 be in Florida or wherever.
- 25 Q. If the companies were in the same state...

GARY JEFFERSON "JEFF" HONEYCUTT

DIRECT - HARVEY

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rebecca Overbey, Licensed Court Reporter in and for the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the foregoing deposition of GARY JEFFERSON "JEFF" HONEYCUTT was taken at the time and place and for the purpose as stated in the Caption; that the witness was duly sworn by me before deposing; that the said deposition was recorded electronically and was later transcribed to typewriting, using computer technology; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, ability and understanding.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at my office in Kingsport (Sullivan County) Tennessee on this the 19th day of December, 2022.



*Rebecca Overbey*  
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Rebecca Overbey  
LICENSED COURT REPORTER  
State of Tennessee  
LCR #078

My License Expires:

June 30, 2024

\*\*\*CERTIFIED ONLY IF AFFIXED SEAL IS GREEN\*\*\*